

Single Red Admirals *Vanessa atalanta* (L.) were recorded on 14 and 17 April at Muir of Ord (NH 55) and Allt Grisean (NG 78) respectively, these being a month earlier than the previous earliest on 16 May in 1992 at Loch Broom, Ullapool (NH 18).

The Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus* (L.) made an appearance on 21 May at Kingussie (NH 70), Inverness-shire, three days earlier than the four noted in 1990 at Eathie (NH 76) on the Black Isle.

I think it is remarkable that, in forty years of recording in the Highlands, six species of butterfly should put in their earliest appearance in the year 2003. In addition, a naturalist friend, Sheila Mackay, had a Peacock *Nymphalis io* (L.) visiting primroses in her garden at Dingwall (NH 55) on 13 and 14 April. This was undoubtedly an overwintering specimen. This species is very rarely recorded in the north of Scotland, usually between June and October, but was noted at several localities around the Moray Firth in 2002.—DEREK C. HULME, Ord House Drive, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire IV6 7UQ.

***Chorosoma schillingi* (Hem.: Rhopalidae), new to Middlesex?**

On 8.viii.2000, I swept a specimen of this distinctive bug from a derelict and overgrown wharf on the River Thames at the outflow of 'Chelsea Creek' where it is overshadowed by the Lotts Road Power Station (O. S. grid reference TQ 265769). This is apparently the first record for Middlesex, vice-county 21.

Until the 1960s, *Chorosoma schillingi* was always regarded as a local coastal insect (apart from sites in the Breck) and was recorded from vice-counties Norfolk to Pembroke and Anglesey. It has recently been found increasingly at inland sites and since first being noted from Peterborough (Russell, W. E., 1967, *Ent. Gaz.* **19**:8), numerous notes have charted its apparent spread: e.g. Kirby, P., 1984, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **120**: 177; Kirby, P., 1991, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **127**: 250; Lane, S. A., 1988, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **124**: 80; Nau, B.S., 1997, *Ent. Mon. Mag.* **133**: 261-262.

Many of these new localities are brownfield sites, including clay pits, gravel pits, sand quarries, railway cuttings, disused railway lines, chalk grassland, roads verges and grassy heathland (P. Kirby and D. Budworth, pers. comm.). Indeed, the last time I found this insect was on a scrappy railway embankment of the District Line at East Ham (TQ 425844, VC18, South Essex) on 8.vii.1999.

Recently, finding *Chorosoma* may have lost some of its novelty among hemipterists, and further inland records have perhaps not been published. However, there is very good evidence that the bug has not yet been found in land-locked Surrey (VC 17) or Middlesex (VC21). There is an active recording scheme for Pentatomoidea and Coreoidea (including Rhopalidae), in Surrey, for the forthcoming Surrey Wildlife Trust atlas, and no record is yet listed (R.D. Hawkins, pers. comm.). The Chelsea Creek locality is only the width of the Thames (about 200 metres) from Surrey, so it quite likely that it will eventually be found south of the Thames too, probably on a similar brownfield site.—RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ (email: bugmanjones@hotmail.com).